

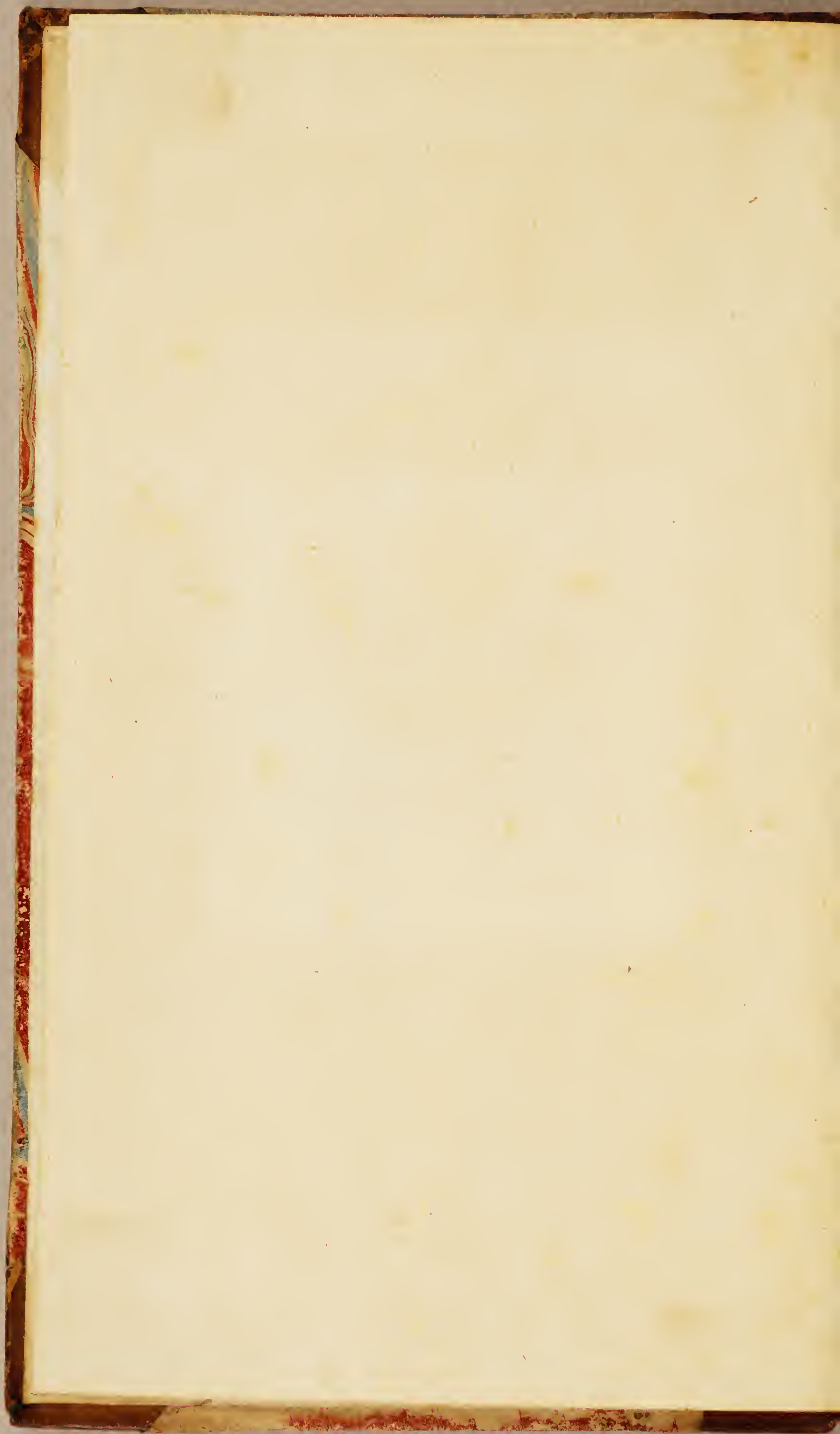


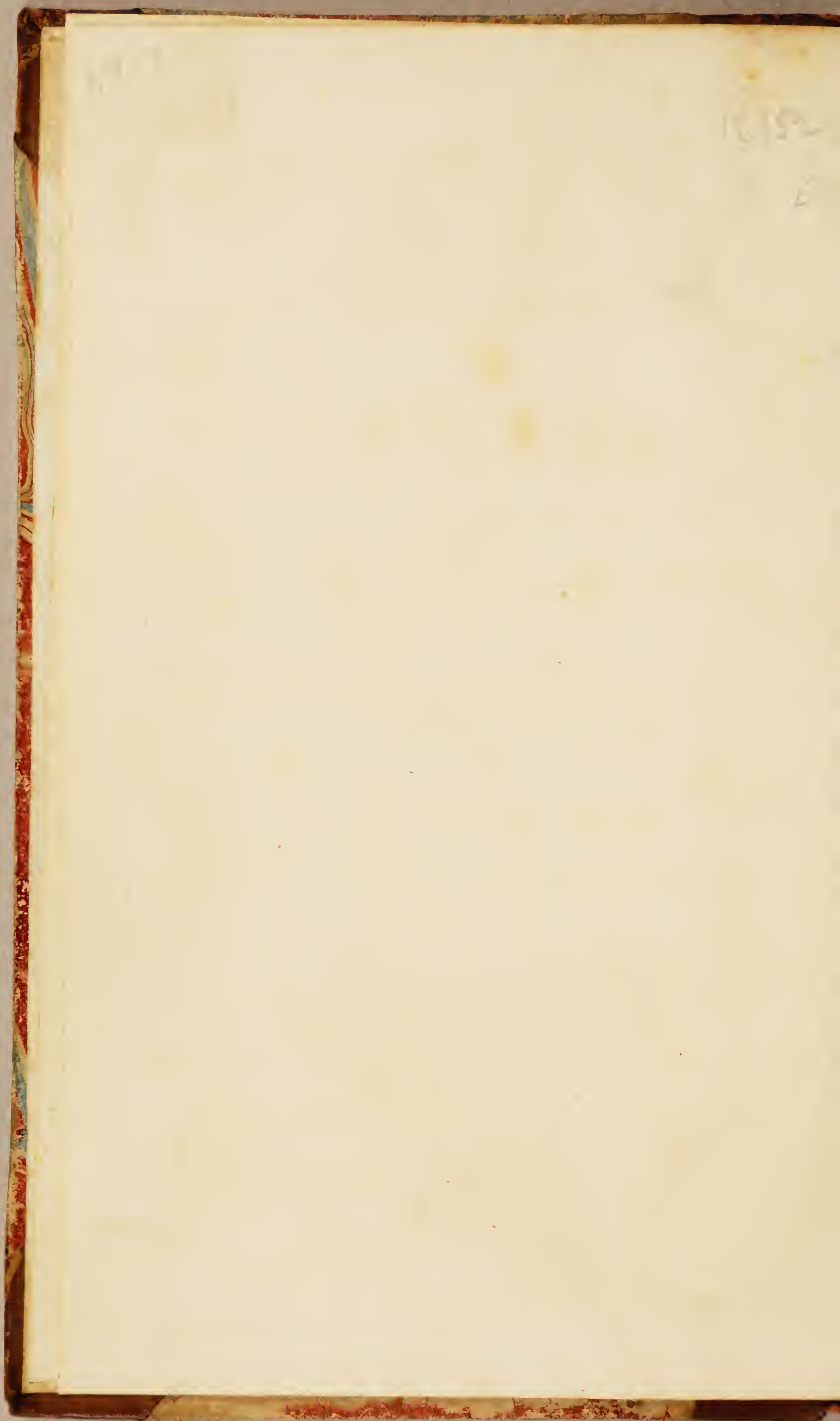
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Vno



John Carter Brown





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A N
E X T R A C T
F R O M T H E
A C C O U N T
O F
E A S T F L O R I D A,

Published by Dr. S T O R K,
who resided a considerable Time in AUGUSTINE,
the Metropolis of that Province.

W I T H T H E
O B S E R V A T I O N S
O F

D E N Y S R O L L E,
who formed a Settlement on St. JOHN's river, in the
same Province.

W I T H
H I S P R O P O S A L S
T O

Such Persons as may be inclined to settle thereon.

L O N D O N :
P R I N T E D I N T H E Y E A R M D C C - L X V I .

THE

OF

ACCOUNT

FLORIDA

Published by the Florida
Geological Survey
and the Department of the Interior

OF

ORIGINATIONS

OF

DEVELOPMENT

THE STATE OF FLORIDA
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OF

THE STATE OF FLORIDA

OF

THE STATE OF FLORIDA

OF

THE STATE OF FLORIDA

RPJCB

JOHN CARTER BROWN

A N
E X T R A C T
F R O M T H E
A C C O U N T
O F
E A S T F L O R I D A ;

Published by Dr. Stork, who resided a considerable time in Augustine, the metropolis of that province.

TH E author in his introduction sets forth, that the design of his work is not only to fix the attention of the ministry upon an object of great national importance, but also to point out to individuals the great advantage of obtaining grants of Land in East Florida, where, the climate, soil, and produce considered, the lands are of no less value than in the islands of the West Indies, and cautions the public against any mistake that may arise in regard to East and West Florida, as the several concurrent accounts of the unhealthiness and infertility of West Florida seem to be too well founded.

B

East

East Florida is a peninsula, and lies between the 25th and 31st degree of north latitude, and contains about 12,000,000 acres. The author observes, that Egypt, Arabia Felix, Persia, India, China, and Japan, all lie in the same latitude, and are the most remarkable countries in all Africa, and the eastern world, for their fertility and riches; and in his description of the province, mentions the river St. John's as the principal river of this province in point of utility and beauty, and not inferior to any in North America. This river passes through five lakes; the lowest of them is called by the Indians, the great lake; it is 20 miles long, and 10 broad, has eight feet water, and it is now called lake Grosse. In going down from hence, the first British habitation is Mr. Spalding's, an Indian trader's store house; lower is Mr. Rolle's settlements, and the country between the best discovered yet upon the river. The tropical fruits and plants are found in great abundance, and afford the strongest evidence that both soil and climate are fit for sugar, cotton, indigo, and other West India productions. Mr. Rolle's plantation is well situated on the eastern banks, and is the most considerable upon this river, which is here very narrow; 25 miles from Mr. Rolle's downward, is Picolata, a small fort with a garrison; the river is there three miles broad: the tide rises at the bar from five

to eight feet, and two feet at Mr. Rolle's, though 100 miles from the sea. There are neither shallows nor any rapidity in the river, the current is very gentle, and vessels may go up the river almost as easy as down for 200 miles, so that no river in the whole globe can be more commodious for navigation. The climate of East Florida is an agreeable medium, betwixt the scorching heat of the tropicks, and the pinching cold of the northern latitudes. There is a change of seasons, but it is a very moderate one; in November and December many trees lose their leaves, vegetation goes slowly on, and winter is perceived. In the northern parts of the province, a slight frost happened last year. The author found upon enquiry at Augustine, that snow had never been seen in that province. The tenderest plants of the West Indies, such as the plantain, the alligator pear tree, the banana, the pine apple, or ananas, the sugar-cane, &c. remain unhurt during the winter, in the gardens of St. Augustine. The fogs and dark gloomy weather so common in England, are unknown in this country. At the equinoxes, especially the autumnal, the rains fall very heavy betwixt eleven o'clock in the morning and four in the afternoon, for some weeks together. When a shower is over, the sky does not continue cloudy, but always clears up, and the sun appears again; the mildness of the seasons, and the purity of the

air, are probably the cause of the healthiness of this country: for when the Spaniards quitted Augustine, many of them were of a great age, some above ninety, and the inhabitants of the Spanish settlements in America, considered East Florida with respect to its healthiness, in the same light that we do the south of France; and from the Havannah, and elsewhere, frequently resorted thither for the benefit of their health, and since it came into the hands of Great Britain, many gentlemen have experienced the happy effects of its climate. Mr. Dunnet, the secretary of the province, and Mr. Wilson, a merchant there, both in a deep consumption, have ascribed the recovery of their health to the climate; and it appears by the monthly returns of the ninth regiment in garrison in East Florida, that it did not lose one single man by natural death in the space of 20 months; and as this regiment does duty in the several forts at different distances from Augustine, viz. at St. Marks d'Apalachy, at 200 miles, Piccolata 30, Malanza 20; it proves in the most satisfactory manner, that the climate is healthy in the different parts of the province. The peninsula of East Florida is not broad, and as it is between two seas, the air is cooler and oftener refreshed with rains, than further on the continent. The entire absence of the sun for eleven hours, makes the dews heavy, and gives the earth
time

time to cool, so that the nights in summer are less sultry here than in the northern latitudes where the sun shines upon the earth for 17 or 18 hours out of the 24. The white people work in the fields in the heat of the day without prejudice to their health. Gentlemen frequently ride out for pleasure in the middle of the day, and governor Grant is regularly on horseback every day from eleven to three o'clock in the afternoon.

The author, in taking notice of the natural productions of this province, asserts, that in no part of the British dominions there is found so great a variety of trees, plants, and shrubs, as in East Florida, which he conjectures is entirely owing to the temperature of the climate in which the productions of the northern and southern latitudes seem to flourish together, and mentions the following as most useful, viz. The white pine for masts, planks, and house building; the red pine, full of resin, and fit for pitch and tar; the spruce fir for making the spruce beer; the white cedar, for boards, shingles, clapboards, and staves for dry casks; the red cedar, for ship building; the Cypress tree is used for making canoes; the live oak is tougher and of a better grain than the English oak, and is highly esteemed for ship building; the chesnut oak affords excellent mast for hogs, and is exceeding good timber. Mahogany grows in the southern parts of the peninsula,

peninsula, and is in size and quality inferior to the Jamaica, but good enough to become an article of trade. The wood-cutters from Providence, come and cut and carry it off, clandestinely. Red bay seems a bastard mahogany, and may come in use when the best mahogany gets more scarce. The walnut and hiccory afford good mast for hogs; black cherry tree is a beautiful wood, the fruit small, and of little use; maple is of a fine variegated grain fit for cabinet work, in the spring they tap it in order to make sugar of the juice. The ash, locust, and dog wood trees are fit for the mill or wheelwrights work; the mulberry tree, both red and white, are natives of the country; the forests are full of them, they grow here to a larger size than in any other country; the leaf of this tree is the food of the silk worm, and the climate perfectly adapted to that tender insect. The fustic and brasiletto, for dying; the saffrafras was esteemed the best in America; the balsam tree, like the sycamore tree in England, yields the true balsam of Tolu; the magnolia, tulip laurel, tupelow tree, are all beautiful and ornamental in gardens and pleasure grounds.

The myrtle-wax shrub is the most useful of the spontaneous growth of America. It is found in all sorts of soil, and in such plenty in East Florida, that were there hands enough to gather the berries, they could supply all
England

England with wax. The process of making it is very simple; they bruise the berries, boil them in water, and skim the wax off, which is naturally of a bright green colour, and on account of its hardness is well adapted for candles in hot countries. The opuntia, or prickly pear, are of different species in East Florida; on one sort with a smooth leaf is the cochineal insect found; of the fruit of the other species, is made a vegetable cochineal, which may be used in ordinary purposes, instead of the true cochineal. The vines, the fenna shrub, sarsaparilla China root, wild indigo, water and muskmelons, are indigenous plants of East Florida. The author mentions an herb that great advantage might be derived from, it resembles entirely our samphire in England, and is called barilla or kaly, it is the same of which in Spain the pearl ashes are made, in the manner as the kelp in Scotland; the sea coast, marshes, and low lands overflowed at high tides, are covered with it here in Florida. The author mentions the deer as an animal most worthy of notice, as the skins are at present the only article of exportation. The buffalo is found in the savannahs or natural meadows, the peculiarity of which is, that instead of hair it is covered with frizzled wool. The bear is not a fierce, but a useful animal; it feeds upon grapes, chesnuts, acorns, &c. is reckoned good food, especially

ally the hams. The racoon is a species of the bear, but smaller, and is esteemed very delicate eating. The horned cattle are as big as in England, in the inland parts. Hares are very plenty, but not bigger than an English rabbit. The horses are of the Spanish breed, of great spirit, but little strength; but the Indians, by mixing the Spanish breed with the Carolina, have excellent horses both for service and beauty. This province has great variety of birds; immense numbers migrate here in winter to avoid the cold of northern latitudes. In the woods are plenty of wild turkeys, which are better tasted, as well as larger, than our tame ones in England. The pheasant is as large as ours, but in plumage like our partridge. The American partridge seems to be of the species of our quail. The wild pigeons for three months are in such plenty, that an account of them would seem incredible. All the different sorts of water-fowls belonging to America (the swan excepted) are found here in the greatest abundance.

The rivers of the southern part of North America abound greatly with fish, but Florida more than any other: those mostly made use of are the bass, mullet, different sorts of rays and flat fish, cat fish, sea-trout, and black fish; several sorts of crabs, prawns, and shrimps of an extraordinary size. The oysters are so plentiful here, that nothing is more common,
than

than at low water to see whole rocks of them. There are three sorts of sea turtle common in East Florida; the logger-head, hawks bill, and green turtle: there are likewise two sorts of land turtle, one of them is amphibious, and the other not so, is called a terrapin. East Florida has fewer insects than any other province in America; during my stay here, I saw but two black snakes. Mr. Rolle, who for 12 months lived constantly in the woods, has seen but one rattle-snake; its having so few venomous creatures, is owing to the hunting parties of the Creek Indians, who are dispersed through the whole province, and continually set the grass on fire for conveniency of hunting, by which means, not only the insects but their eggs also are destroyed. Alligators are here in great numbers, but never attack men either in the water or upon land; all the mischief they do, is carrying off young pigs from the plantations near the rivers. There is a large yellow spider, bigger than a pigeon's egg, its web a true yellow silk, so strong as to catch small birds, upon which it feeds: the bite of this spider is attended with a swelling of the part and great pain, but no danger of life. A great variety of lizards are found here, some of them very beautiful, changing their colour like the chameleon; they are quite harmless insects.

The author is disposed to prognosticate that cotton will be a staple commodity of this province; the utility and importance of which, as an article of trade, is well known. Bengal and the Coromandel coast, in a great measure, owe their riches to it. The calicoes, chints, muslins, annually imported by the East India Company, and sold at such immense profit, are all made of cotton. The quantity imported from the West Indies, notwithstanding the great increase lately made in the produce of it at Tortola, one of the Virgin islands belonging to Great Britain, bears but a small proportion to the whole consumption. A great demand has raised the price of the Turkey cotton from five pence to ten pence a pound, and of the West India, from nine pence to two shillings. The Manchester manufactures are greatly cramped by the scarcity of this commodity, and would be considerably extended should cotton become more plentiful in England. Mr. Rolle has planted the cotton shrub in East Florida, where he has found it thrive so well, as plainly proves the soil and climate is adapted to it. The author proceeds to shew that there is reason to believe that cotton, rice, and sugar, will grow there, and says, that the planters from Carolina, who have visited East Florida since it came into our possession, are of opinion that it is much better for the production of rice, even

even than South Carolina; and also that there is not the least doubt of the climate being better adapted to the silk-worm than any country in Europe, or probably in America, as frequent showers refresh the air, and the sea breezes keep it in constant agitation. The thunder is neither so violent nor so common. The sugar cane grew at Augustine, and there is no doubt but it will be soon planted in East Florida; both the soil and climate of East Florida seem to suit this plant. The Spaniards planted some of the Guatinala indigo in their gardens at Augustine, where the author declares he has seen, in a poor sandy soil, indigo plants of a larger size, and in a more luxurious state, than ever he saw in South Carolina in the richest and best cultivated lands, and says he was informed, the Spaniards cut it four times a year. Indian corn is the common food of America, and it grows here almost in every soil. The large bounties granted by parliament, and the considerable premiums by the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, will induce some of the new settlers to cultivate hemp. The vines grow in almost all parts of America south of Delaware, in great plenty, and when it is observed that the richest wines are produced in the islands of Madeira, and the Canaries, in the island of Cyprus, and in other parts of the Levant, lying nearly in the

same latitude as East Florida, it will probably not be owing to any defect in soil or climate, if wine is not produced hereafter in some plenty upon this continent. Currants, raisins, figs, and olives, will most probably thrive here when they are planted.

ABSTRACT

A B S T R A C T
O F A
L E T T E R
F R O M

An eminent Planter in South Carolina, to a
noble Lord in England. Dated Charles-
Town, South Carolina, August 27, 1765.

S O O N after my arrival at Augustine, I
set out for St. Juans river, and arrived
that evening at Picolata, a small fort upon
the banks of St. Juans; next morning we
proceeded up the river as far as Mr. Rolle's
town, which may be about 30 miles from
Picolata. The land on both sides the river
is very indifferent, except some spots here
and there, but at Mr. Rolle's the good land
begins. After staying one night at Mr.
Rolle's, we set out for Lake George, which
is 20 miles long, and 15 broad. From Mr.
Rolle's to Lake George, which is near 50
miles, is one continued body of excellent
land, I may say the best in the king's domi-
nions.

nions. This tract alone is capable of producing yearly, more rice than the whole province of South Carolina has ever yet produced in a year. These lands seem more adapted to rice and indigo than any thing else; it is better land than mine at Winyaw, which is reckoned some of the best in South Carolina. We intended to cross the Lake, but the wind blowing fresh, and we in an open boat, it was not thought safe to venture, and therefore turned back after staying one night and a day. Our guide, who was a man of credit, informed us, that after you pass over Lake George, there was good land on each side of the river for 50 miles, when you meet with another Lake not quite so large as Lake George; when that is crossed, the country as far as you can see, on both sides of the river, is a fresh water marsh: for 40 miles higher up these marshes are extraordinary rich lands; here the river begins to be shallow, but from the mouth to this place, it is the best and safest navigation I have ever seen. At this place, in a still evening, the surf of the sea is heard, and plenty of sea birds are seen in the river, which is a sign it cannot be above seven or eight miles from the sea.

In coming down the river, within a few miles from Mr. Rolle's, we pitched upon an island, where we landed and examined it; it may contain about 14 or 1500 acres; a ridge of high lands runs across, on which is
a con-

a continued grove of orange trees, live oak, wild cherries, and magnolia ; on each side of this ridge is a fine body of rich low lands as any in the world. Near this island is a tract of very good land, separated from it by a creek of about 40 yards wide, and deep enough for any ship. Great plenty of fresh water fish is here in the river, and abundance of ducks and wild turkies upon the island. I shall return to East Florida next November, and carry negroes with me, as the governor will not grant us our land till the negroes are arrived in the province.

ABSTRACT

A B S T R A C T
O F A
L E T T E R
F R O M

The Surveyor General of East Florida.
Dated St. Augustine, May 1, 1765.

SIR,

I N consequence of your desire, I acquaint you that by order of the Lords of Trade, and virtue of my appointment as surveyor general of the southern district of North America, I have made an exact survey of the land and sea coast from St. Augustine towards the Cape of Florida, as far as latitude 26. 40. You may inform those who chuse to become inhabitants of East Florida at this favourable juncture of its beginning, that the first comers will have great advantage in the choice of their land. There is variety of soil in East Florida; the high lands, some very rich, with a clay foundation, some less,
I with

with a sandy bottom, and some quite sandy. The first and second produce oranges, sweet and sour, lemons, oak, ash, red bay spice tree, papaw tree and pine; the third sort of soil produces the cabbage tree, and arboreous grape vine, the plumb tree and opantia, on which the cochineal worm is nourished. The low lands are partly cypress and Tupelō swamps, partly fresh water marsh, without any tree except cedar; on the foot of the high lands, partly salt water marsh, full of the barilla and the mangrove tree: there is an inland navigation mostly through the whole province, by which the produce may be conveyed to the Capes, or to St. Mary's river to the northward.

OBSERVATIONS of DENYS ROLLE,

*Who formed a settlement on St. John's river,
in the province of East Florida, with his
prop'sals to such persons as may be inclined
to settle thereon.*

THE foregoing account of Dr. Stork's, is nearly verified by my own personal observations and experience from October 1764, to October 1765, during which time, I either resided upon my plantation or was travelling through different parts of the province; the climate is extremely fine, perhaps not to be surpassed in the whole world; its greater fruitfulness exceeding that of the Carolinas and Georgia, may be attributed to its more southern latitude. Its preference to the West Indies as well as those colonies mentioned, and West Florida, must be given in point of health arising from a two-fold consideration, of a more northern latitude than the former, and also the enjoyment of a trade wind passing over the peninsula, not felt in the other. This wind I was extremely sensible of in my journey to St. Marks, on the bay of Mexico, in the month of May: when I came to the high land of Latchaway, the first Indian town, about 50 miles from my settlement, west north west, where this wind was rather disagreeably cold, in that otherwise warm month—This being the highest land between the two seas, it received less obstruction from the woods; when these are more cleared, every

every part will enjoy it, at present it is perceivable chiefly in the creeks of the rivers, but certainly tends much to the purity of the air. Every thing in nature seems to correspond towards the cultivation of the productions of the whole world, in some part or other of this happy province, the most precious jewel of his majesty's American dominions. In order to settle this province, his Majesty's Governor issued a Proclamation to all persons, " That they may, on application
 " to him in council at St. Augustine, obtain
 " grants of lands in the said province of East
 " Florida, in the following quantities, and
 " on the following terms: that 100 acres
 " of land will be granted to every person,
 " being master or mistress of a family, for
 " him or herself; and 50 acres for every
 " white and black man, woman, or child,
 " of which such persons family shall consist,
 " at the actual time of making the grant;
 " and in case any person applying as afore-
 " said, shall be desirous of taking up a
 " larger quantity of land than the family
 " right entitles such person to, upon shew-
 " ing a probability of cultivation, an ad-
 " ditional number of acres, not exceeding
 " 2000 may be obtained upon paying the
 " receiver of the quit-rents the sum of five
 " shillings sterling, for every 50 acres of
 " such additional grant, on the day of the
 " date of the said grant. That the quit-
 " rents of the land granted in this province,
 " be one halfpenny *per* acre, payable to his
 " majesty, his heirs and successors yearly,

“ on the feast of St. Michael which shall
 “ happen two years after the date of the
 “ grant: that in all grants of land to be
 “ made, regard will be had to the profit-
 “ able and the unprofitable acres, so that
 “ each grantee may have a proportionable
 “ number of one sort or the other; as like-
 “ wise that the breadth of each tract of land
 “ be one third of the length of such tract,
 “ and that the length of each tract do not
 “ extend along the banks of any river, but
 “ in the main Land, that thereby the said
 “ grantees may have each a convenient share
 “ of what accommodation the said river may
 “ afford either for navigation or otherwise.
 “ That all persons, on fulfilling the terms
 “ of the first grant, may have a further
 “ grant of the like quantity of lands on the
 “ same terms as aforesaid; that for every 50
 “ acres of plantable land, each grantee shall
 “ be obliged within three years after the date
 “ of the grant, to clear and work three acres
 “ at least, on that part of the tract which
 “ they shall think most convenient and ad-
 “ vantageous, or else to drain or clear three
 “ acres of swampy sunken ground, or drain
 “ three acres of marsh, if any such be within
 “ his or her grant. That for every fifty
 “ acres of land, accounted barren, every
 “ Grantee shall be obliged to put on his or
 “ her land, within three years after the date
 “ of the grant, three neat cattle, which
 “ number every person shall be obliged to
 “ continue on their lands, till three acres for
 “ every fifty, be fully cleared and improved.
 “ That

“ That if any person shall take up a tract of
 “ land, wherein there shall be no part fit for
 “ present cultivation without manuring and
 “ improving the same, every such grantee
 “ shall be obliged, within three years from
 “ the date of the grant, to erect on some part
 “ of the land, one good dwelling-house, at
 “ least 20 feet in length, and 16 in breadth;
 “ and also to put on the land, the number
 “ of three neat cattle for every 50 acres.
 “ That if any person who shall take up any
 “ stony or rocky grounds, not fit for culture
 “ or pasture, shall within three years after
 “ the passing the grant, begin to employ
 “ thereon, and continue to work for three
 “ years then next ensuing, in digging any
 “ stone quarry or other mine, one good
 “ hand for every 100 acres, it shall be ac-
 “ counted a sufficient cultivation: that every
 “ three acres which shall be cleared and
 “ worked as aforesaid; and every three
 “ acres which shall be drained as afore-
 “ said, shall be accounted a sufficient seating,
 “ planting, cultivation, and improvement,
 “ to keep for ever from forfeiture 50 acres
 “ of land in any part contained within the
 “ same grant; and the grantee shall be at
 “ liberty to withdraw the stock, or forbear
 “ working in any quarry or mine, in pro-
 “ portion to such cultivation and improve-
 “ ment as shall be made on the plantable
 “ lands, or upon the swamps or sunken
 “ grounds, or marshes, which shall be in-
 “ cluded in the same grant. That when
 “ any person who shall hereafter take up
 “ and

“ and patent any land, shall have seated,
 “ planted, or cultivated, and improved the
 “ said land, or any part of it, according to
 “ the directions and conditions above-men-
 “ tioned, such patentee may make proof of
 “ such seating, planting, and cultivation or
 “ improvements, in any court of record in
 “ the said province, or in the court of the
 “ country district or precinct where such
 “ lands shall be, and have such proofs cer-
 “ tified to the register and office, and those
 “ entered with the record of the said patent,
 “ a copy of which shall be admitted on
 “ any tryal, to prove the seating and plant-
 “ ing such lands.” Also the lords com-
 missioners of trade and plantations, repre-
 sented to his majesty, that application had
 been made to them by Denys Rolle, praying
 for a grant of lands in his majesty’s province
 of East Florida, in order to make a settlement
 thereon : his majesty took the same into con-
 sideration, and having received the opinion
 of the lords commissioners for trade and plan-
 tations, and also of the committee of the
 lords of his majesty’s most honourable privy
 council, was thereupon pleased with the ad-
 vice of his privy council, to order that the
 governor and commander in chief of his
 majesty’s province of East Florida for the
 time being, to cause twenty thousand acres of
 land to be surveyed in one contiguous tract,
 on such part of the said province as the said
 Denys Rolle, or his attorney shall choose, not
 already granted or surveyed to others ; and
 upon return of such survey, conformable to
 his

his majesty's directions and general instructions, to pass a grant for the same to the said Denys Rolle, under the seal of the said province, upon the following terms, conditions, and reservations, viz. That the grantee do settle the lands with protestant white inhabitants, within ten years from the date of the grant, in proportion of one person for every 100 acres. That if one third of the land is not settled with white protestant inhabitants in the above-mentioned proportion, within three years from the date of the grant, the whole to be forfeited to his majesty, his heirs or successors. That such part of the whole tract as is not settled with white protestant inhabitants at the expiration of ten years from the date of the grant, to revert to his majesty, his heirs or successors. That an annual quit-rent of one halfpenny sterling per acre, be reserved to his majesty, his heirs, or successors, payable at the feast of St. Michael in every year, to commence and become payable upon one half of the said land, on the said feast of St. Michael, which shall first happen after the expiration of five years from the date of the grant, and to be payable on every ensuing feast of St. Michael, or within fourteen days after, and the whole quantity to be subject in like manner to the like quit-rent at the expiration of ten years. That there be a reservation in the said grant, to his majesty, his heirs, and successors, of all those parts of the land which the surveyor shall, upon the return of

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the survey, report to be proper for erecting fortifications, publick wharfs, naval yards, or for other military purposes ; that there be a reservation to his majesty, his heirs, and successors, of all mines of gold, silver, copper, lead, and coals. That any part of the land which shall appear by the surveyor's report, to be well adapted to the growth of hemp or flax, it shall be a condition of the grant, that the grantee shall sow and continue annually to cultivate a due proportion of the land, not less than one acre in every thousand, with that beneficial article of produce. And the governor or commander in chief of his majesty's province of East Florida for the time being, and all others whom it may concern, were required to carry his majesty's commands thereby signified into execution.

Having obtained a grant of 20,000 acres of land, in pursuance of which, and agreeable to the views of government in strengthening this province with the settlement of white inhabitants, I endeavoured in the year 1764 to form a settlement in that province with such inhabitants ; I carried several with me, some of the neighbouring colonies joined mine, and in May 1765, received the addition of a small ship load of settlers from the West of England. My settlement was formed in the heart of the province, on a river bigger than the Thames, having two feet of tide at my village, which is one hundred miles from the sea ; a foot tide at between 30 and 40 miles higher up, and two hundred and fifty miles
nearly

nearly of easy navigation throughout, dividing the province into two parts, besides several considerable rivers falling into the great one on both sides, which permit boats to ascend into most parts of the province already given up by the Indian nation. Though this met with some difficulties at first, as every first attempt will in a new unsettled province, yet a strict attention to the welfare of my settlers surmounted those difficulties, and amidst every obstruction given by the jealousy or designs of the evil-minded, provided the settlement with necessaries, and at length left them on my departure for England, together with what supplies I sent up from Georgia, the place of my embarkation, in great plenty of most sorts of the necessaries and some conveniencies of life, a large stock of cattle, hogs, and poultry, an harvest of Corn, Rice, and Cotton to gather in—an earnest of future productions.

My own experience having furnished me with the best instructions for others, will first of all point out the objections naturally arising to the settlement of the English in this province, before I express any circumstances that may entice any persons to become adventurers; then would obviate each of those objections, and afterwards shew the great conveniences and peculiar advantages that would accrue to those who should incline to settle there, and will accept the after-

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mentioned

mentioned proposals of settling on the lands chosen by virtue of his Majesty's order to the Governor of the Province, for a grant to myself. The first great objection is the heat of the climate. This is less than the West Indies, but if more, by the situation, being more southern than Carolina or Georgia, yet for the aforementioned * reasons, and by experience, being in the former province in two different summers, can declare the heat to be more sufferable. White people myself inured to labour, though not born to it, being one, who could work the whole days for † eight months in the year; in the four summer months, two or three hours in the morning and the same in the evening, may be suffered by whites, and the culture of the ground, for the respective crops will require no more in the open sunshine: for if the weeds are followed by the hoe during the cooler months, the crop surmounts them before the weather is encreased much in heat, and the planter need only view the crop, keeping the weeds down and ripening fast to perfection.

* See page 17 and 18.

† The climate, during these eight months, is very fine, and believed to equal, if not exceed, any other in the known world—The heat of the four other months, tho' great, yet is more sufferable than that in some more northern latitudes, by an extraordinary purity of air, which may be breathed easier by asthmatical people than the air in England during the same season.

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An example will suffice for information. A whiteman at my settlement, the year before I came, cleared a piece of ground in some other part of the province in the manner accustomed, that is, cutting the trees off breast high with a short handled ax without the inconveniency of stooping which would attend the cutting it off near the root with such a tool. Though by my using a long handled axe, I found more weight added to the stroke, and the tree might be severed near the root, still without that inconvenience: however, the said piece of ground contained about four acres, and the above-mentioned person cleared it in that manner in less than a month, and after chopping off the limbs, and letting them lye there some time to reduce the sap, and burning them on the spot partly to ashes; he hoed in some corn in the spaces between the roots, and greater loggs still remaining unburnt; and after the corn was come up, he sowed some peas between the hills of corn as made by drawing up the weeds and earth from time to time to the corn, and also some Pompions, which prove wholesome and good food in that climate, though not much approved of here, and also some Cotton seed, all which he did by the labour of himself alone, having no person whatsoever living with him to assist him. He reaped from this labour of a few days only a small portion of the cooler season of the year;

the quantity he supposed of fourscore bushels of Indian corn, several bushels of Peas, the number I have forgot, 200 of Pompions, a supply sufficient for five in family during the year, and had also 20 pounds of Cotton for cloathing or sale. It is to be observed that Rice, though partly cleansed from weeds by the hoe, is chiefly by being sown in such lands as may be overflowed either by tide water or streams penn'd back by damms, relieved from weeds by water let in on it, which nourishes the grain, at the same time it destroys the weeds.

The second inconvenience must arise from an opportunity seized on, and an inclination given way to, in drinking much strong liquor or rum unmixed, as plenty and cheapness permits; and in quenching the thirst, naturally inclined to a cool draught by liquor, either water or other sort of a different degree of temperature with the blood, somewhat moved by the heat alone in summer, but if excited by labour, must nearly boil. This then is a voluntary inconvenience, to be remedied by a mixture always of seven-eighths of water to one of rum, a proportion, though derided at first by the incautious, yet acquiesced and approved by all after long experiment. In summer the thirst should be allayed by water drank from a sunny stream, or liquors heated by the fire, to the same degree as the blood may be at
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that time; this, though not so pleasant in the mouth or throat, yet prevents that shock to the body cold liquors would give it: less in quantity will suffice to satisfy the thirst, and such will give strength to the laborious man.

The next thing that the settlers are affected in, is the temperature of the mind. Does the unprovided gentleman, does the misfortunate tradesman, does the numerous and streightened family of laborious husbandmen seek a retirement from luxury and misfortunes attendant thereon, a renewal of character on the most honest principle, a large field for cultivation and improvement, to procure a comfortable maintenance, a plentiful provision, an opportunity of raising their new fund to the highest pitch of reputable grandeur? Let these mark well this observation: activity alone in these employs will preserve that temper of mind which will contribute to health of body. It is a relaxation for any considerable time that contracts that indolence of disposition, and brings back to the mind the fatal remembrance of misfortunes of life, the slips of youth, the former errors in the native country they endeavoured to repair. This produces the despair that enervates the man, and shatters the frame to pieces, though outwardly appears in different diseases, said to be incident to the hotter climes.

Though this province knows no other disorder but a species of the ague, yet still this may be generated, if not so, at least nourished, I may say by the same means; but on the contrary, fixing the attention to the main end of the retirement to these colonies, pursuing it with resolution, temperance, and labour, join hand in hand to consolidate and strengthen every vein, and preserve the human frame in youthful strength. Here then is the fountain of youth, said by former writers to be found in this province of East Florida.

I can scarce mention under this head of objections, the noxious beasts, insects, and reptiles; they chiefly are produced by the imagination. Custom will accommodate the mind to those that are real. Of Beasts there are Wolves, Bears, Tigers, and perhaps Panthers, though of the latter rather uncertain. None of these were ever known to attack a man: the first extremely fearful, when any have come up to our fires in the woods, where we happen to lie down by night, on the least noise take to an immediate flight: the last and the fiercest, though small, on the attack of a dog have destroyed it. The bears are useful animals, fine food, and wear good skins, never attack a man; and though I have wounded one myself, yet did not offer to attack me. Of the * alligator,

* See page 9.

the most dreadful in appearance of any, a true and full account is given already. The rattle-snakes the most dangerous, though commonly guarded against by the hunters, by a piece of woollen wrapt about the legs, yet I have pursued my examination of the country, and followed game through Morasses, swamps, savannahs, and every sort of grounds, without accident, though unguarded by any method, in my common dress of shoes and stockings; and have slept in all those situations, fearless and unhurt. The Indians, natives of the country, have given rise to other fears and apprehensions. I went into the boundless forests, traversed only by themselves, and those beasts so dreaded, before the governor had any converse with them; but with a different opinion of that part of the human race than some others have had: I supposed humanity,—I found it. After seated at between 30 and 40 miles from the protection of the government, with my few people I first carried with me, as soon as I heard of the Indians being in the neighbourhood, I waited on some of the Chiefs, and obtained their permission to remain at that place I set down on. By a kind reception of them afterwards, whenever they came thither, what I expected might be possible, proved so with facility. The civilizing of them proved also probable. They are kind in every respect to me; and not only
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to myself but mine. After a few months, I undertook a journey through the country they inhabit, with only my servant, and one person more, was at two of their Towns, and proceeded for two hundred miles to St. Marks on the bay of Mexico, and returned back the same way, and saw them again in a particular state of mind, much heated by drinking of rum for twelve days together, yet kindly received me in perfect friendship, by the name they have fixed on me of the Squire, which they had given General Oglethorpe, and is perfectly known through the Indian nation; that my own person would have had safe conduct throughout their country, unattended, unarmed. My conversation by signs alone, under that name, would convey me every where; and if they meet persons in the woods, and perceive them to belong to my plantation, they shew marks of civility and kindness. At my own plantation they preserve the utmost decency both to the women as well as men, and for their own women never discover the least jealousy when they have even come by themselves to my settlement; and though they receive imprudent presents of rum at St. Augustine, and bring it to my settlement, where they oftentimes drink it and are much intoxicated, they still preserve the utmost respect for me even in their cups, though they are eye witnesses of my having large quantities of rum for my labouring

labouring people, and always deny their request for any trading therein : and yet notwithstanding such denial, their whole trade of skins lies ready for my acceptance. Their confidence in the justice of my plan proposed of dealing, has established this resolution. A discovery of humanity on our part has distinguished theirs, unknown or rather disbelieved before by the generality.

Agreeable to the plan of government, I shall now make my proposals for settlers to set down on the tract of land granted by his Majesty to myself.

To such persons who have a competency to go over unassisted, there will be a town-lot sufficient for a house and garden, and a lot of 5 acres next adjoining to the town, granted by lease for three lives gratis, under a small quit-rent, just for acknowledgement, and to preserve the houses from being uninhabited, which might otherwise be, on the removal of persons to other parts, and yet could not be occupied or granted to others, but left desolate. As for those that are artificers, this might be all they would want; but to others that would cultivate land, there would be no limitation as to quantity, agreeable to their ability, and proportionate to their family, which I would grant in fee to them and their heirs for ever on a small quit-rent. The above mentioned persons are supposed to have 50 guineas, 21 of which

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will defray their expences of settling on the land, according to the following schedule.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Passage from England to East Florida - - -	6	0	0
Bedding - - -	1	6	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kitchen and household furniture	1	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carpenters tools - -	1	17	7
Husbandry tools -	2	7	5
Implements for game and fish provision - -	1	18	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Provision for half a year	3	12	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Live stock - -	2	3	4
Seeds - - -	0	5	8
	<hr/>		
	21	0	0

The remaining 30 guineas may be employed in the price and wages of indented servants, or a working negro may be purchased with it. Those who have only 21 pounds, will have all the above conveniences, but must depend entirely upon themselves for labour.

To those whose abilities can reach only to the sum of 12 guineas, and will be contented with the bare necessaries by which persons may cultivate land, and by industry raise themselves, the following schedule is adapted; and they will have the same town lot and five acre lots, with a farther proportionable

tionable quantity of land upon the above terms.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Passage - - -	6	0	0
Hammock - -	0	2	6
Two pair of sheets -	0	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Four yards of ticking for the bed, and one yard for the bolster - - -	0	7	6
Indian blanket -	0	4	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
An iron crock - -	0	2	1
A tubal - - -	0	2	10
A spade - - -	0	2	10
An hoe - - -	0	1	10
An hand-saw - -	0	5	0
An axe - - -	0	2	0
An hook - - -	0	1	4
Provision for half a year	3	12	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
A sow - - -	0	12	0
Seed corn - - -	0	5	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
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	12	12	0

To those who have no property at all of their own, the following proposals are made : That they are indented to me for four years ; that I will maintain them with provision until the land yields a return : That they will be employed in the first year in raising necessities of life in their town and five acre lots, and perhaps something more ; and in the three following years, in raising such crops as are

F 2 marketable,

marketable, the profits of which shall be divided between the proprietor and the settler; out of which divided profits, the settler, at the end of the four years, will, with proper management, be able to save sufficient to purchase nearly two negroes, or to indent servants in the manner he himself was indented. I must now recommend the proper time of passage, which is to contrive to be there as soon as may be in October, by which they would have the greatest quantity of time to clear the ground for corn, which is sown in February, and also all kinds of garden seeds, which I recommend to be collected by all the settlers to carry with them, and which will be best preserved in canisters wrapped up in wax; which seeds, being immediately planted, will ripen at Christmas, for the season is so mild till that time, that most things flourish. To give an instance of which, I travelled through the country in December, and lay open on the ground as in summer; and the Governor had pine-apple plants lived through the winter in open ground, though the month of January was reckoned uncommonly cold. To sum up all the benefits, which I doubt not appear to over-balance the objections; there is the consideration of the friendship established with the native Indians, effecting a double advantage, security, and a beneficial trade, founded on the most honourable

8 points,

points, humanity and justice ; of plenty in a stock of cattle, hogs, and poultry, now increased, 'tis supposed, from not a small nursery at the time of my leaving America, to which is proposed, with the increase now taking place of inhabitants, a large additional stock shall be drove to these settlements. The method of cultivation known, and the former settlers I hope to find experienced in it, and ready in gratitude to benefit the succeeding embarkation, both in that and giving their assistance in raising of houses at their arrival. Their experience will also teach the procurement of game at the least expence of time and labour, which I was unwilling to encourage at first, and desirous of rather supplying them at a greater expence with the necessaries of life, than introduce a less approvable method of livelihood ; but deer, bear, turkeys, turtle, and fish, came frequently to table under such discouragement, oftentimes by the Indians, and sometimes by my own people, only by their recreation. To establish and render more perfect this happy settlement, I would wish every settler to let these be standing maxims in his own breast, That liberty be to all people to worship the divine Being according to their truth and persuasion, so as it tend to the honour where 'tis all due, not to the detriment of civil society, which is not to be inferred by any sect, or from any mission ; that Sunday
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be observed strictly according to the established church, to which all preeminence must be given: That Indians and Negroes are to be esteemed in all respects human, capable of inheriting an happy eternity, and to be by all means, the former by the means of civility, humanity, and invitation to the attending divine service, drawn to christianity; the latter, if it is necessary that they be introduced, (but they are at farthest designed to be but a far minor part of this settlement) are to be prohibited the use of Sunday in raising provision for themselves, as is the custom in many, I may call heathen colonies, and obliged by their masters to attend divine service on that day, who are to permit some other part of the week to be applied for that work, as they tender their own advancement and thriving in life by the work of those slaves. That marriage be esteemed honourable, and not only a civil but religious compact; that though not to be deferred by the civil magistrate at any time, yet never to be omitted by the clergyman of the church of England, if present, or confirmed by him when the first opportunity offers. That all children be sent to be educated at a proper age, at the school intended to be established. That no one offer to set up a publick house of entertainment, except such established by the proprietor, for the sole use of travellers unprovided with lodging, or absolute necessary refresh-

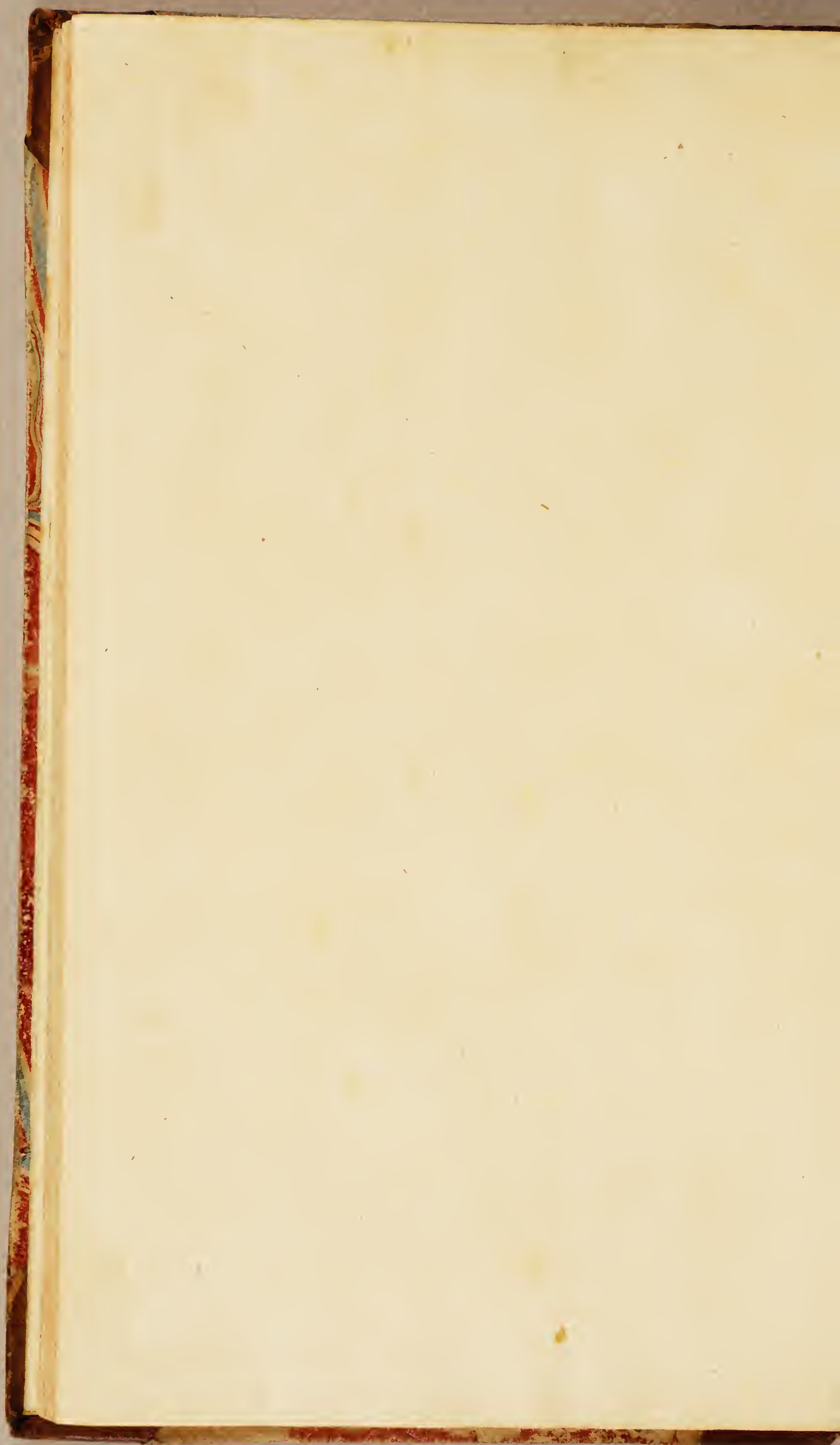
refreshment. That every species of good order be recommended, and that no person whatsoever induce Indians to make too free use of any strong liquor ; but that every rule laid down to regulate the commerce and conduct be observed with that people who permit us to settle on their profitable lands.

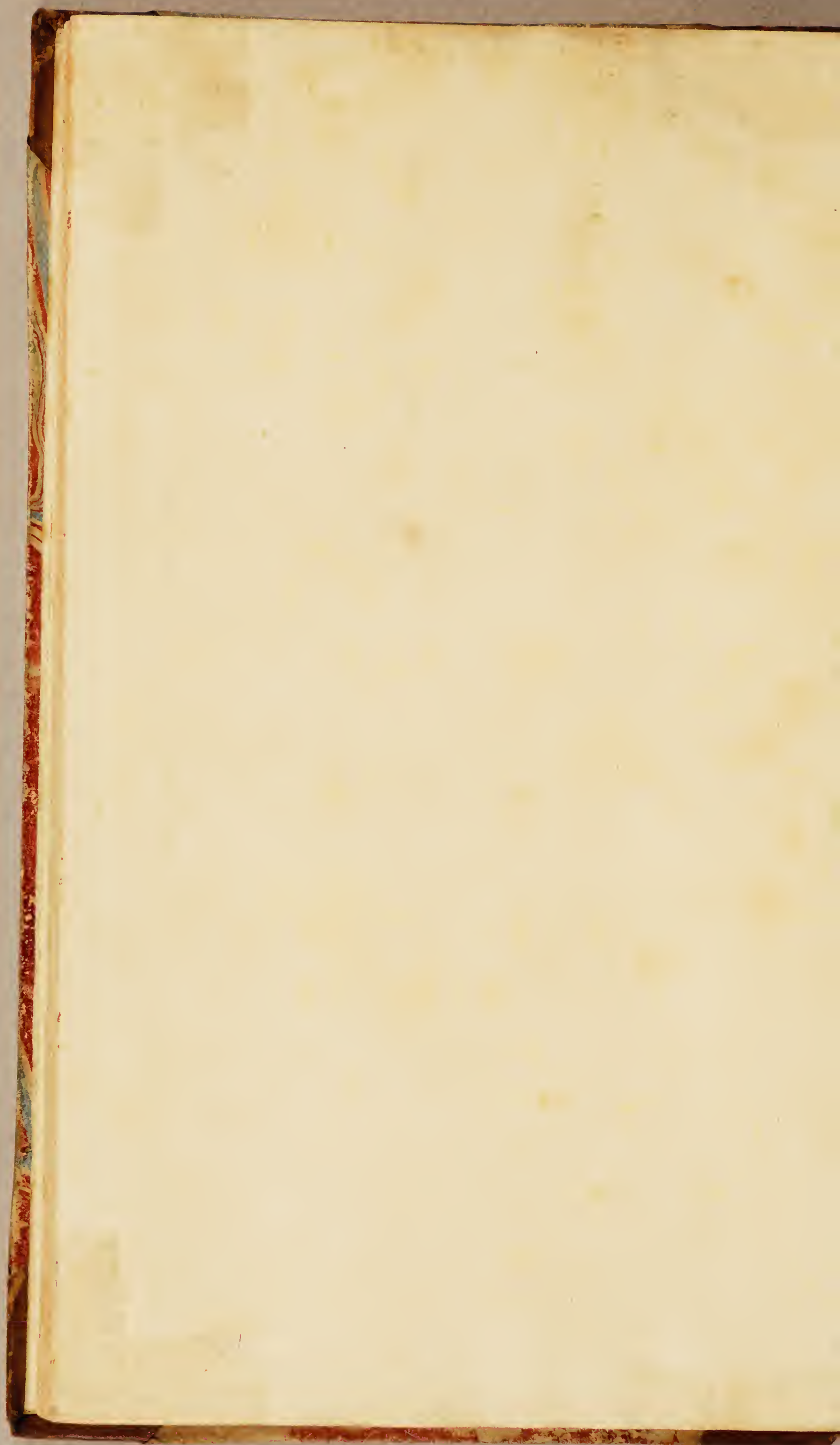
I have chartered a ship, and am now going over with about fifty more settlers to visit my plantation, to give the necessary directions for its progress. And any persons who may be hereafter inclined to settle upon this promising land, may hear of frequent opportunities of going thither at the great sea ports nearest to their abode, such as London, Bristol, Liverpool, &c. where ships will be freighted to St. John's River, on which my plantation is situated, or to St. Augustine, which is about thirty-five miles from it.

Tuderly,
Sept. 1, 1766.

DENYS ROLLE.

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